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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 2:53pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To: Renata B. Hesse  
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I am writing to express my concern about the weakness in the proposed settlement in the case US vs. Microsoft.

The settlement contains enough loopholes to make it barely a slap on the wrist.

While there have been many people saying that we should leave Microsoft alone, and damaging Microsoft will damage our economy, this is NOT a prudent course of action.

With Microsoft as the dominant supplier of PC based operating systems we are needlessly placing our eggs in one basket. Look at the number of small to mid-size companies that were bought out or driven out of business by Microsoft. Wouldn't the economy be stronger as a whole with several competitors than one?

Microsoft tells us that as one company they can deliver a better software product. This statement goes against any study of the business world where competition among distributors encourages innovation.

Microsoft continues to use its dominate position to lock out competition. This is hurting the economy and the software market by reducing inovation.

The Internet was founded through the work of several individuals, companies and universities. They developed standards that allow computers of dis-similar hardware and dis-similar operating systems to communicate.

Microsoft is working to reduce this inter-operatibility by promoting its own priority file formats. These formats in general can only be read by Microsoft products, which can in general only be run on Microsoft operating systems.

While in a perfect world file formats would be developed

by a standards committee and followed by software companies, I hold no illusion that Microsoft would at best drag its feet in following said standards and at worst improperly implement these standards so they could tout the superiority of their propriety formats. In this case the damage has been done and we are forced to use the Microsoft formats as the De-facto standard.

To this end Microsoft should be REQUIRED to publish its file format descriptions so non-Microsoft software can be developed to read the formats. It will only be when there are enough non-Microsoft solutions that sane universal and open standards can be developed.

Perhaps it can be argued that Microsoft has obtained it monopolistic position through legal means, I am not in a position to argue that point, however, now that they are a monopoly they must NOT be allowed to use their position to maintain it. They also must NOT be allowed to illegally profit from their position as well.

There is no need for one large company to control the software market. This is hurting business and consumers alike.

Thank you for your time.

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